



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 735

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federally Qualified Health Center, and Rural Health Clinic Providers
FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
DATE: August 12, 2008
SUBJECT: Coverage of Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for Alcohol and Drug Use

Effective **July 1, 2008** Medicaid will cover SBI for alcohol and substance abuse screening in an office, outpatient hospital, or emergency room setting.

- **Applicable providers:** Only Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Rural Health Clinics will be reimbursed for SBI.
- **CPT codes:** Physicians, ARNPs, and nurse midwives should bill CPT code **99408** or CPT code **99409** for this service. The AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) and DAST (Drug Abuse Screening Test) are the preferred tools to be used for these screenings. When appropriate, the AUDIT and DAST may be performed at the same time. If either single test is given, use CPT code 99408 to be reimbursed at \$10.00. If both tests are administered, use CPT code 99409 to be reimbursed at \$20.00.
- **FQHCs and Rural Health Clinics:** FQHCs and Rural Health Clinics must bill the appropriate encounter code for this service and include the appropriate CPT code (99408 or 99409) on the claim for tracking purposes. Reimbursement will be made to FQHCs and Rural Health Clinics for the encounter code only.
- **Billing:**
 1. SBI, CPT code 99408, is payable up to a max units of 2 per year per member.
 2. SBI, CPT code 99409, is payable up to a max unit of 1 per year per member.
 3. SBI is payable in addition to other evaluation and management services performed and billed on the same day.
 4. Because this is a screening service and not substance abuse treatment, it is not expected that there would be a substance abuse diagnosis on the claim. Substance abuse treatment services must be billed to Magellan by participating providers.
- **Medical Record:** Documentation of the alcohol and/or substance abuse screening must be maintained as part of the medical record and available for any future review.

The IME appreciates your partnership as we work together to serve the needs of Iowa Medicaid members. If you have any questions, please contact IME Provider Services telephone at 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-725-1004, or by e-mail at: IMEProviderServices@dhs.state.ia.us